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Atty. Dkt. No. 023174-0140

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Mitsunori NODONO

Title: PROCESS FOR CONTINUOUSLY PRODUCING  
POLYMERELECTROLYTE MEMBRANE AND PRODUCING  
APPARATUS THEREFOR

Appl. No.: 10/549,921

International Filing Date: 03/24/2004  
371(c) Date: 9/20/2005

Examiner: Henry S. Hu

Art Unit: 1796

Confirmation Number: 7960

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of a document known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be

appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

### **TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search report.

### **RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

In a counterpart Japanese application, an Office Action dated June 9, 2009, was received by Applicants. The Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is attached herewith.

Applicant wishes to advise the Examiner that documents JP 6-29032 and JP 8-329962, cited in the Japanese Office Action, were previously submitted in Information Disclosure Statements dated December 20, 2005 and February 14, 2008, respectively. However, an English language abstract was not provided for document JP 6-29032, therefore, provided herewith for the Examiner's convenience, is an English language abstract only.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with

the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date AUG 24 2009

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